



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

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New Castle, Delaware

January 2009

Congress to consider creation of National Park for Delaware

For some years now, Delaware U.S. Senator Thomas Carper has had the idea that our State should have a National Park. Delaware is the only state in the country without a National Park, and if approved, the "first state" would be the last state to have a National Park established within its borders. Personnel from the National Parks Service (NPS) have been working on a proposal to

develop a National Park in Delaware.

The proposed plan for the park is somewhat non-traditional, using a model dubbed "hub and spokes" by the NPS. It varies also from the traditional park model where the NPS owns the property and buildings and is responsible for all maintenance and operations. Instead, the National Park in Delaware would have a main base of operations and visitor center, and from there, park visitors could take ranger-led or self-guided tours of other park/historic sites throughout Delaware.

In a recent NPS report on park development, New Castle City is designated as the

preferred location for the "hub". The visitor center may be located in the Sheriff's House, adjacent to the Court House (both State-owned buildings) in downtown historic New Castle. The Federal government would enter into a partnership agreement with the State of Delaware for use of that building.

Congress must approve the concept of developing a National Park in Delaware, and from there decisions will be made as to the details and alternatives, as identified in the NPS report. Contact the City Administrator, at 322-9812, for information on where to get access to the full NPS report. NPS personnel estimate it will take about five to six years for park development once the approval process has been completed.

**The next
regular
City Council
meeting is 7 p.m.,
Tues., Jan. 13 at
Town Hall**

Please! Don't trash your old TVs or computers! **Go green with electronics recycling!**

The DSWA provides drop-off bins for recycling electronic goods. Bins are located throughout the State. See the DSWA Web site for a complete list of locations (www.DSWA.com). The closest location to the City of New Castle is on Lambson's Lane, off Route 9 (aka New Castle Avenue) between Routes 295 and 495. Drop-off times for this location are from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., weekdays only.



Property Tax Exemptions

For information on the Over 65 or Disability exemption, call Marian Delaney at 322-9811. Max. income: \$12,500 single/\$25,000 married. Deadline is June 15th.

City Offices closed Jan. 19 for the M.L. King Holiday, with no no trash pickup. Mon. trash will be collected Tues.; Tues. trash will be collected Wed.

New Castle – The First Capital City!

Winter workshops cover hot topics for historic preservationists

The New Castle Community History and Archaeology Program (NCCCHAP), the New Castle Historical Society and the Delaware Historical Society are planning a series of winter workshops and lectures on historic preservation. Topics include masonry, roofing, and developing a maintenance plan for your historic house.

Funding acquired by the New Castle Historical Society, and a Save America's Treasures grant awarded to the Delaware Historical Society's Read House and Gardens, will provide support for preservation and restoration projects throughout 2009, and the institutions would like to share their project discoveries with New Castle neighbors.

The programs begin in January. For details visit:
www.nc-chap.org, www.newcastlehistory.org
or www.hsd.org/read.htm

January Historic Preservation Programs

January 14

Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Vietnam Mailbag
Lecture by author
Nancy Lynch, at the
Arsenal at Old New Castle
Free

January 28

Wednesday, 7 p.m.
State of Delaware
Preservation Tax Credits
Joan Larrivee, at the
New Castle Courthouse
Free

Coming soon to a mailbox near you!
The 2009 New Castle City Annual Report Calendar

Code Enforcement Corner

The City of New Castle Board of Health strives to keep properties in compliance with adopted rules and codes. To report any problems or file a complaint, call Code Enforcement Officer John Lloyd at 221-6507. The entire City Code and Complaint Forms are also available on the City Web site at www.NewCastleCity.org.

This month's reminders...

- Residents are responsible for sidewalks in front of their properties. Please ensure sidewalks are clear of snow and ice **within 24 hours** of the storm ceasing or ice forming.
- Please remove **recycle and trash containers** from curbs and place them behind your residence by end of pickup day.
- **Bulk items** (stoves, refrigerators, TVs, furniture, tires, etc.) require special pickup if disposal is desired, with varying fees. Arrangements can be made **prior to placing the items at the curb for pickup** by calling 322-9813.

Electronics (TVs, computers, etc.), however, can be dropped off and recycled for free at the DSWA on Lambson's Lane, weekdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**First Day
to File to Run
for Election for
City Offices is Jan. 2
Election held
Sat., April 18**

New Castle dubbed, "... the friendliest"

The 8th Annual New Castle Spirit of Christmas, presented in December by the New Castle Presbyterian Church and the New Castle Visitors Bureau, was a great success! William Boyle and Sally Denton held an open house, along with many other generous New Castle residents. Comments from some visitors to their home were that the event in New Castle was the best around (compared to many others they had experienced) and that New Castle was the friendliest place they had been!

City Council considers draft ordinances from Tree Commission

The Tree Commission has prepared two draft ordinances and the City Council will hold a **public hearing** to receive comments on **Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall**. One ordinance is a proposed amendment to the existing City Code section entitled, "Tree Commission". The other ordinance is a new Code section to be known as the "Street Tree Ordinance".

All interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing and comment on the proposals. Contact the City Administrator, at 322-9812, for more information or to review the full text of the ordinances.